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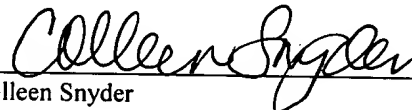
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Christopher et al.
Serial No: 09/900,532
Confirmation No: 3942
Filed: July 6, 2001
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATED
PREPARATION OF AN OPTICAL FIBER
Examiner: George R. Koch
Art Unit: 1734

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Colleen Snyder

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this amendment.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this amendment.